# THE HUGHES SITE
# AN ABORIGINAL VILLAGE SITE ON THE POTOMAC RIVER IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
OF MARYLAND

PROCEEDING NO. 6

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BY

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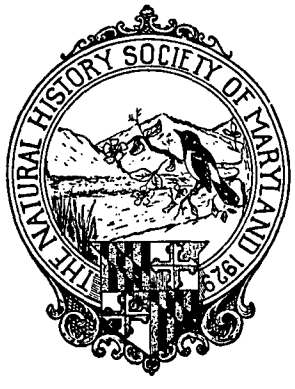


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The Natural History Society
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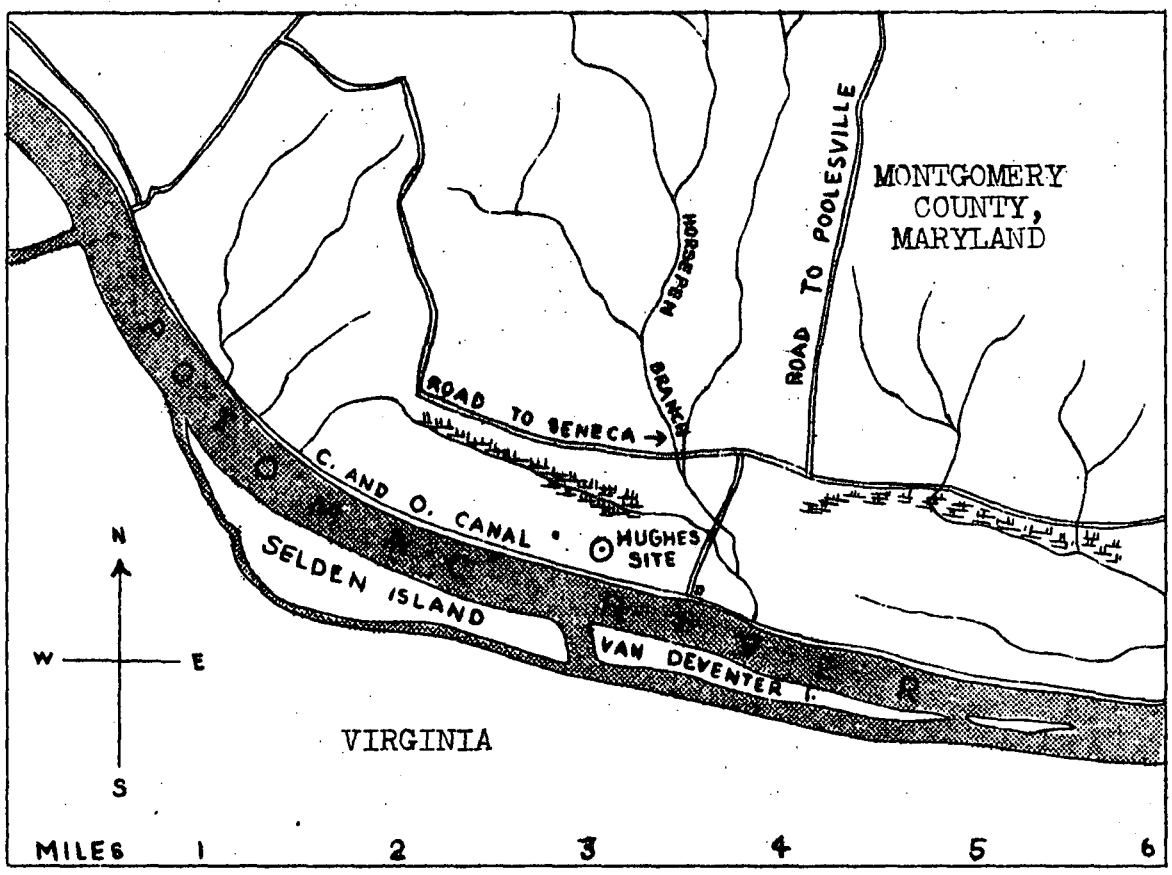
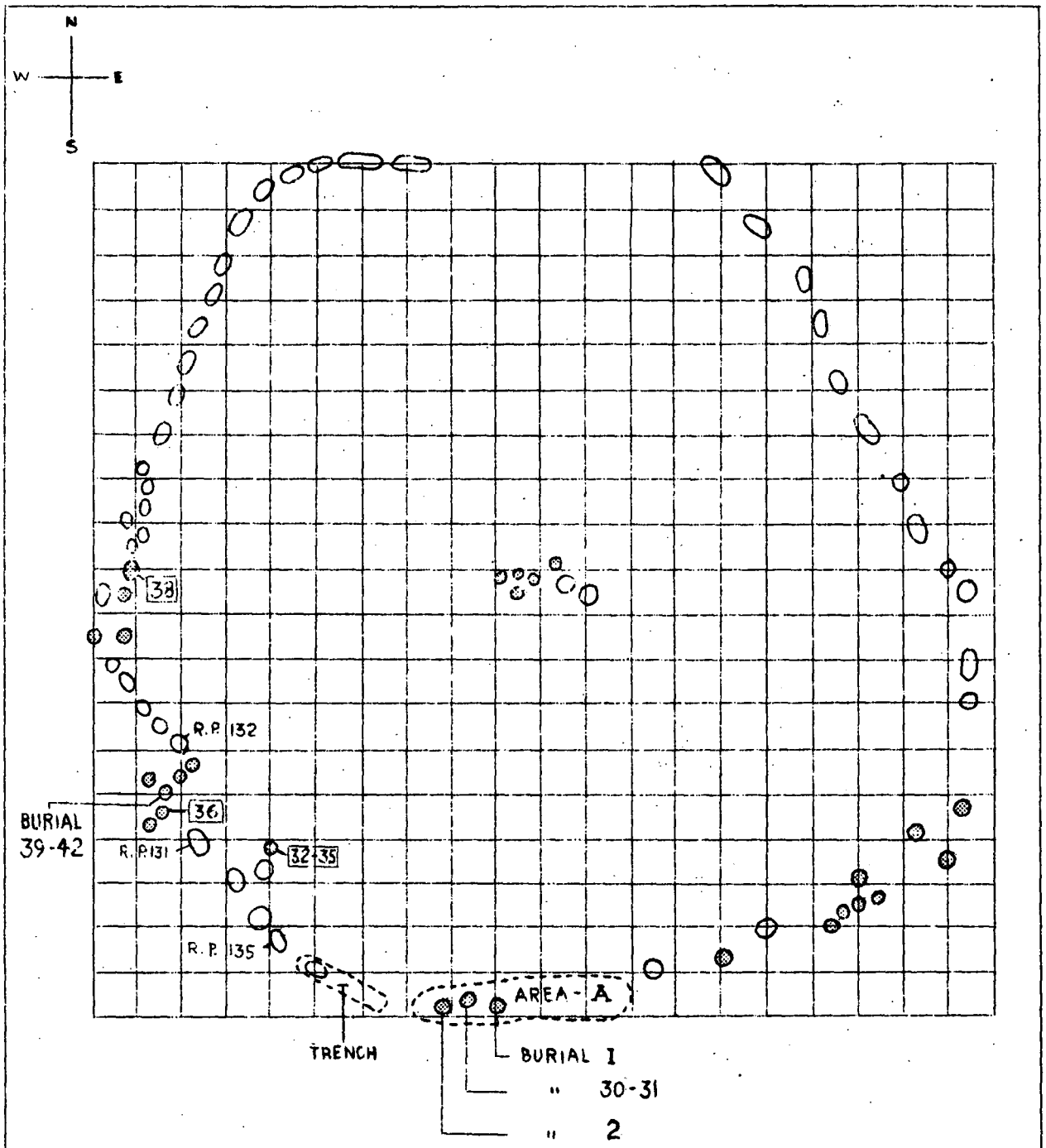



MAP SHOWING LOCATION
OF HUGHES SITE




PLAN OF INDIAN VILLAGE
F.J. HUGHES FARM, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Scale 1:844 - Each section equals 20 feet.
T. Eckert, Surveyor

LEGEND

Graves  Refuse Pits

# THE HUGHES SITE

## An Aboriginal Village Site on the Potomac River in Montgomery County, Maryland

### Introduction

This very interesting Indian village site was discovered in the spring of 1937, on the lands of Frederick Hughes of Washington, D. C., by Nicholas and Roy Yinger, who are residents of Frederick, Maryland. It is located about six miles south of Poolesville, Montgomery County, Maryland, on the north bank of the Potomac River, within two hundred feet of the old C. & O. Canal, and about three-quarters of a mile west of Horsepen Branch, a small stream flowing into the Potomac.

The field upon which the site is located is bounded on the south by the C. & O. Canal and on the north by a swamp that is drained by Horsepen Branch. At this point the Potomac has a flood plain about one-half mile wide that is subject to inundation at very high water, the field being covered at times to a depth of eight or ten feet.

When the Yinger's located the village site, the field was entirely clear of vegetation and a faint semi-circular line of dark earth was visible, which they found upon investigation to be graves and refuse pits that had remained undiscovered through years of cultivation.

Mr. Nicholas Yinger obtained permission from Mr. Hughes' father, who at that time resided on the farm, to excavate the site, and by the end of the summer of 1937 he had opened a number of refuse pits and a group of graves containing twenty-six skeletons.

This find was brought to our attention - the members of the Department of Archaeology of the Natural History Society of Maryland - by an article which appeared in the Baltimore Sunday Sun sometime in August of 1937. A short time later Mr. Frederick Saffran and the writer visited Mr. Yinger for the purpose of seeing the objects and skulls which he had found. We were invited to visit the site, and on arriving there found an area measuring roughly one hundred feet by twenty feet which contained a number of partly filled excavations. This was the cemetery where the twenty-six skeletons had been found and where a few other graves discovered later increased the total number to 31. The earth in this area was very dark from the abundance of ashes in the refuse pits, into which most of the burials had been placed. Scattered throughout the disturbed earth on the surface was a great amount of animal bones with some sherds and fragments of human bone. Mr. Yinger's earlier observation of the semi-circular direction of the line of dark earth led him to believe that the graves and refuse pits had been arranged in a circle. This belief was found to be correct.

As his intention was to completely excavate the site and sell the objects found, we decided to make some arrangement whereby we could watch the work as it progressed, survey the graves and pits, and photograph the burials. We were permitted to do so

on consideration that the burials we uncovered would be purchased.

We therefore visited the site at intervals on week ends from January to June of 1938, at which time Mr. Yinger discontinued work as he thought the site was exhausted. During these visits we opened three graves and photographed them together with two that were excavated by Mr. Yinger and one by the Maryland Academy of Sciences. As most of our time was occupied with the survey, which was supervised by Mr. Theodore Eckert, we ourselves had little chance to dig, though we cleared out two refuse pits and dug a trench through and beyond one that had been previously excavated. The graves and pits which had been cleared in the interval of our visits were also examined and a number of objects, sherds, and animal bones were collected through additional digging in places that had not been completely excavated. We made no attempt to clear an area large enough to expose post holes of a palisade or houses as we had not time enough at our disposal. However, the condition of the soil is such that traces of post holes should be easily detected. The members of the Natural History Society who helped in this work were Mr. Frederick Saffran, Mr. Theodore Eckert, Mr. George H. Stearns and Mrs. R. E. Stearns. Some of the objects and skeletons recovered have been given to the United States National Museum.

## Descriptions of the Graves and Refuse Pits

As previously mentioned most of our working time at the site was used in making a survey of the excavations, which consisted of a number of separate pits and a large area that had been worked over to such an extent that it was impossible to do much more than survey its outline. This is the area that was being worked when we first visited the site and is shown in dotted lines and marked on the "Plan of Indian Village" as Area A.

As indicated on the plan the pits were placed in an irregular circle with an open space at the north measuring one hundred and twenty feet across. Testing revealed no graves or pits in this space. The line of dark earth observed when the site was first discovered extended along the western side of the circle, terminating on the south at Area A. When Mr. Yinger first started to dig he chose an area on the western side of the site and discovered a number of refuse pits but no graves. We did not survey these diggings as they were nearly obliterated at the time we saw them, but they were slightly to the east of the group of burials containing skeletons Numbers 39 to 42.

The next place chosen for excavation was Area A on the south, which was found to contain a total of thirty-one skeletons. As some of these were multiple burials we do not know how many actual graves were there. The position of three graves in this group can be recorded however, marked as follows - Burial 1, Burial 2, and Burial 30-31.

Burial 1 contained the skeleton of a young person, the same that was used to illustrate the story that appeared in the Baltimore Sun, and Burial 2 contained at a depth of three and one-half

feet the skeleton of an adult male lying on the right side in a flexed position. In examining Burial 2, a small triangular black stone object was found which is shown in the drawing (Fig. 15). This has flat sides and is slightly pitted on both surfaces as if marked for perforation. So far as we could ascertain no other objects were found in either of these graves. Burial 30-31 was a double interment at a depth of two feet six inches of a youth of about fifteen years of age and a child of six (Plate 1, Fig. 1). A little more than a dozen shell beads were lying in the earth about the right wrist of the youth. About half were small flat beads made from fresh water mussel shell and the remainder were small marginellas.

The earth within the limits of this group of burials was greatly mixed with ashes and refuse, and a great number of sherds and artifacts had been found by Mr. Yinger. By digging in various places to undisturbed clay we found that the depth of this deposit averaged eighteen inches in the areas between the graves. The graves were usually about two and one-half to four feet deep, except those of several infants that were closer to the surface. In comparison with the other graves and pits in the site, Area A showed much more evidence of occupation, the deposit of dark ash laden earth being slightly deeper and containing more refuse and artifacts. In digging in an undisturbed part of this deposit a few feet to the north of Burial 30-31 the writer found, in a space measuring four by six feet, one splinter awl, one deer scapula awl, pierced for suspension, one small bone punch, blunt at both ends, and a pipe stem of clay, decorated with dotted lines apparently applied with a roulette. A number of sherds and animal bones were also found.

Directly to the east of Burial 2 and at a depth of approximately eighteen inches, the writer found in fragments the clay vessel shown in the lower right hand corner of Plate 2, Fig. 1. Twenty feet further east a number of sherds, animal bones, and a stone celt were found in an undisturbed portion of a refuse pit that was about two feet in depth.

After clearing out Area A, Mr. Yinger turned his attention again to the western half of the site, working from the cemetery around to the north, digging test pits at intervals of three or four feet and excavating the refuse pits and graves as they were found. At this time we did some digging ourselves, opening several graves and refuse pits which will be described in detail.

Forty feet to the west of Area A was a pit that had been partially excavated. Through this pit we ran a trench six feet wide for a distance of forty feet toward Area A. The pit was found to be consideraly larger than the original excavation, being trough-shaped and measuring about ten feet long by five feet wide, with a depth of two and one-half feet at its deepest point. The remainder of the trench was cut through an area barren of pits, but having a cultural layer of dark earth about one foot thick under six inches of topsoil. A few sherds, animal bones, and two broken beaming tools were found in this layer. No post molds were seen. The contents of the pit itself were very interesting and a chart has been prepared showing the approximate position of the various objects (Fig.17). A list of

the objects recovered is as follows:

305 body sherds
36 rim sherds, 4 having lug handles
3 small triangular white quartz arrowpoints
1 fragment of a large quartzite arrowpoint or knife
7 fragmentary beaming tools
1 broken clay pipe (Plate 3, Fig. 1-j)
1 splinter awl
1 antler arrowpoint
2 blunt objects made of the ulna of a deer, one unfinished
1 broken awl made from a deer scapula
1 stone celt (Plate 5, Fig. 2-i)
Numerous animal bones

Lying on the bottom of the pit were two large fragments of a clay pot, one above the other, and at a distance of about three feet were two more large fragments. A deer skull rested on these last two fragments and on the skull lay the broken half of a beaming tool. A few feet further away the other half of this beaming tool was found. This is the lower specimen in Plate 4, Fig. 1. The four large sherds were all from the same pot and seemed to comprise the entire vessel, but were poorly fired and came apart in flakes when we attempted to remove them. The bottom of the vessel especially, was in little better condition than plain mud. We also found in this pit a stone tempered rim sherd with a heavy collar decorated with parallel cord impressions. This is shown in Plate 3, Fig. 1-c, and is the only rim sherd of this type that was found in the entire site, although several body sherds, apparently of this type of ware were recovered.

About six feet to the north of this pit Mr. Yinger found what was probably a filled in storage pit, as the earth within it was but slightly discolored. A few sherds were present in the soil and at a depth of three feet was a complete beaming tool made from the front leg bone of a deer. This specimen is the third from the top in Plate 4, Fig. 1.

Pit 135*

This pit, ten feet beyond the one in the trench, was partially excavated by us, and was finished by Mr. Yinger during our absence. We are not certain as to its dimensions, but it was also trough-shaped and at least ten feet long and very rich in artifacts. The center was a compact mass of black wood ash, plentifully mixed with animal bones and sherds. Below is a list of the artifacts recovered by us:

125 body sherds
16 rim sherds, 1 with lug handle
3 small quartz triangular arrowpoints
1 large broken rhyolite triangular arrowpoint
1 antler arrowpoint
2 broken halves of beaming tools
3 splinter awls
Animal Bones

Foot note
*This number was given to this pit by Mr. Yinger, but it is certain that there are not this many pits in the entire site; however, we have listed our collection according to his numbers and do not think it wise to change them.

## Pit 131

This was a large but shallow pit not extending down more than two feet from the surface. The dimensions of the excavation were about fourteen by ten feet. Mr. Yinger cleared this pit and found the following objects:

130 body sherds
14 rim sherds, 3 with lug handles
1 fragment of a beaming tool
Animal bones

## Pit 132

This was a bowl-shaped pit about five feet in diameter and three feet deep in the center. The contents were as follows:

107 body sherds
14 rim sherds, 1 with lug handle
4 small triangular quartz arrowpoints
2 broken beaming tools
1 splinter awl of bone (Plate 4, Fig. 2-F)
1 antler arrowpoint
Animal bones

This pit contained much wood ash and the cultural objects had been thrown in indiscriminately. This condition seemed to apply to all the pits.

## Burials 32-35

This grave contained the skeletons of four individuals at a depth of about four feet. By the time we arrived at the site on the morning that Mr. Yinger opened the grave, all the bones with the exception of three skulls had been removed. Two of the skulls were lying in such a position that they obviously represented a secondary burial. The other skull was separated from these two by about five feet, and as the neck bones were still in their proper place this was probably a flexed burial. Details concerning the other skull are not known. According to Mr. Yinger no objects were found with these skeletons.

## Burial 36

This was the tightly flexed skeleton of an adult male, at a depth of three feet, lying on the right side, and was removed by members of the Section of Archaeology of the Maryland Academy of Sciences. No objects were found with this burial other than some sherds in the grave earth.

## Burials 39-42

This grave contained a secondary burial of three individuals and the flexed skeleton of a child lying beside them. Scattered through these bones were a few fragments of cremated burial, consisting of parts of a skull and some bits of long bones. Amongst the bones of the secondary burial was a pendant made of the baculum or penis bone of a raccoon. The secondary burial is shown in Plate 1, Fig. 2, with the crushed skull of the child uncovered.

After removing the secondary burials the child's skeleton was then exposed and was found to be lying on its back with the legs partly flexed and turned to the right.

Burial 38

This burial was that of an adult female at a depth of nearly four feet. A string of shell beads extended from the neck to the hips. These were of the same type as the long string shown in Plate 3, Fig. 2. The left humerus, left clavicle, and some of the neck bones with a part of the base of the skull were missing.

Ten feet south of Burial 38 was the grave of a white man lying extended on the back at a depth of about six feet. We completely uncovered this skeleton and found nothing but a few T-headed iron nails near the skull. After photographing the skull for identification, we recovered the skeleton. Mr. Yinger opened and examined two burials, which also seemed to be those of white persons fifteen feet south of this one. The remains of a wooden coffin were still preserved in one. These people may have been early settlers; at any rate, the fact that they were buried in this spot is very interesting. These white burials, although within the area of the refuse pits were not placed in any of them. These were the only burials containing the skeletons of white persons.

Directly in the center of this circle of pits Mr. Yinger found five graves containing seven Indian skeletons. Nearby were two pits filled with wood ash and refuse.

Personal ornaments were all that were found in association with the Indian burials, which contained approximately seventy individuals. These included shell and bone beads, and bone and oyster shell pendants. A few sherds and animal bones were found in some of the graves, but as a number of burials were in refuse pits, their presence was probably accidental.

After finishing the western side of the site, Mr. Yinger began working the eastern side and discovered many more graves and pits. While this side was being worked we were attending to the survey and consequently, having little time to dig ourselves, we merely examined the work done by Mr. Yinger.

One fact was noticeable in regard to the pits, - a number of them were trough-shaped with the longest dimension parallel to the circumference of the circular plan of the village. (See Plan of Village). We do not know whether all of these pits, other than the graves, were refuse pits or whether some were fireplaces. All of them contained quantities of ashes, and produced sherds, artifacts and animal bones. A small proportion of the animal bone showed traces of fire, yet, if the pits were fireplaces, it would seem to the writer that many more bones should show the effects of long continued fires. In view of the fact that we did no testing for post molds, it is also not known whether the pits were inside or outside houses.

During the course of our excavations we found no objects of European contact, and Mr. Yinger said that he had found none.

Regarding the three white burials previously mentioned, it is possible that they may have some connection with the site. On the other hand, as no objects of Indian manufacture were found with them, their location may be entirely fortuitous.

## Pottery

Through purchase from Mr. Yinger and the result of our own work we secured approximately ten thousand sherds from the Hughes site. From all these sherds it was possible to restore only four vessels. These are shown in Plate 2, Fig. 1. The three larger pots were typical of the ceramic style used at this site. They are wide mouthed, round bottomed vessels with cord impressions on the exteriors, and are further embellished with notched rims and two oppositely placed lug handles. Approximately ten per cent of all the sherds recovered had some form of decoration besides handles and notched rims. The notches on the rims were probably applied with the same cord wrapped paddle used to impress the outer surface of the pot, and in a number of instances, after being applied they had been partly obliterated by smoothing down the rim. In some specimens a smooth object, which left no cord impressions, had been used to make the notches. The various forms of lug handles and rim notches are shown in Plate 2, Fig. 2, and by a page of drawings. Two sherds were found that had decorations on the rim consisting of holes punched in with some hollow object such as a small reed or bird bone. One of these is shown by a drawing (Fig. 2).

It was observed that the impressions on the outer surface of the sherds were those of cords only; net and woven fabric impressions were entirely absent. It was further observed that the cord markings in nearly all specimens had been partially smoothed down, and in a few cases entirely obliterated. Only a few sherds were found that had not been smoothed at all and one of these is the fragment used in making the largest restored pot shown in Plate 2, Fig. 1. The color of the ware is brown, of various shades, from light buff to a very dark brown, and exhibits the usual mottled coloring common to Woodland pottery, caused by uneven firing.

The interiors of some vessels had a smooth black finish, which does not seem to be a slip, as it penetrates into the clay. It was probably produced by burning the pot upside down, cutting off the circulation of air in the interior and causing the inside to become black.

The tempering material consists in the main of the crushed shell of a species of fresh water mussel that to this day is found in the Potomac River. We have seen a number of shells of this mussel that had been gathered at Point of Rocks. The shell was never mixed with the clay in excessive amounts nor in extremely large particles. A very few exceptions were found to this form of tempering material, several sherds containing a fine sandy grit mixed with the clay.

It is more than likely that the vessels were built up by coiling, but the sherds show little evidence of this method since with few exceptions the fracture lines run in all directions. This

condition was probably due to the fact that the vessels were quite well made. The drawings (Fig. 11) show two circular disks of shell-tempered clay that are the bottom pieces of pots, and these show evidence of coiling very plainly. There are several more of these disks in the collection together with other sherds from the bottom of pots which do not at all show evidence of coiling.

Concerning the fact that only two lug handles were used on these pots, the writer advances the following reasons. In the first place, no more than two handles were found in any part of the site that matched in shape, size, composition of clay and decorative technique. Furthermore, several large sherds in the collection contain enough of the rim to pass the half way mark between two oppositely placed handles without showing additional ones. The restored vessel in the lower right hand corner of Plate 2, Fig. 1, has its two original handles and shows no signs of possessing others. These handles are not so prominent as some others and consequently do not show up well in the illustration. Moreover, the crushed vessel that was found in the trench contains only two handles.

Some of the knob-like handles on the small to medium-size vessels were pierced for suspension, the holes, never larger than one-quarter inch in diameter, having been punched through the clay while it was still plastic. The handle on one pot was formed by extending the rim outward somewhat like the lip of a modern water pitcher. A decoration in the form of a double triangle of punched dots was placed on the handle facing the inside of the vessel. (Drawing, Fig. 1).

In size these vessels ranged from about four or five inches in height to very large forms, probably as much as eighteen inches in height and diameter, but since we were unable to restore any of the larger ones, these measurements are only approximate. A study of the curvature of the sherds shows that a medium-size vessel was preferred, averaging from eight to ten inches in height and about the same in diameter.

Decorative design, when present, was usually applied to the neck of the vessel just below the rim and consists of patterns formed with punched dots, or trailed lines, and a few examples that were impressed with cord. Certain of the drawings illustrating these designs are unnumbered. They are all shell-tempered with the exception of the sherd directly above Fig. 9.

A design appearing on several vessels consists of a chevron-like mark. This was usually applied just below the rim, but one sherd from a very large pot contains this design nine inches below the rim at the greatest width of the vessel and spaced four inches apart (Drawing, Fig. 3). Another design, observed on only one sherd, consists of groups of finger nail impressions placed at intervals some six inches below the rim of a fairly large pot. (Drawing, Fig. 5).

An interesting design is shown by a drawing (Fig. 4). This was placed about four inches below the rim. That part of the vessel between the rim and design is polished quite smooth while the part

below the design is heavily cord marked. A sherd with a trailed line pattern is shown on Plate 3, Fig. 1-g. A sherd from a small vessel that contains a design composed of a double row of very small punched dots is illustrated by a drawing (Fig. 6). This sherd is very thin, about one-eighth inch, of a rich brown color, and sparsely tempered with very fine particles of shell.

A number of sherds from small cup-like vessels were recovered. The composition of the clay of most of them is very sandy and contains no other tempering material. The few exceptions contain both shell and sand. The color range is from a brick red to dark grey. Cord impressions were not applied to the exterior as on the larger pots, nor did they have lug handles. The sherds are rather thick for such small vessels, some as much as one-half inch at the bottom and one-quarter inch at the rim. The smallest restored vessel shown in Plate 2, Fig. 1, is of this type. It is sand-tempered, dark grey in color and is not decorated. The sherd shown in Plate 3, Fig. 1-a, is also from one of these small cups. It is sand-tempered, brick red in color and has a notched rim with a row of dots punched in below the rim and a chevron design below the dots. The drawing, Fig. 7 shows another sherd that is sand-tempered, light buff in color, with a notched rim and dot decoration. Another buff colored sand-tempered sherd is shown by a drawing, (Fig. 8). This has a notched rim, incised design and chevron-like mark.

The few sherds yet to be described present features that are somewhat different from the usual type of ware used at the Hughes site and although they were probably made there, they seem to suggest outside influence.

Plate 3, Fig. 1-b. This sherd was found in the earth above Burial 38. It is tempered with crushed quartz and bears a crude design of trailed lines. The rim is smooth and without notches.

Plate 3, Fig. 1-c. This sherd is tempered with crushed quartz and possesses a thick collar with two parallel cord impressions and indentations at the overhang of the collar. The rim is flat and without notches. These features are common to certain forms of ware occurring at other sites along the Potomac above tidewater and in the Shenandoah Valley. This was the only rim sherd of this type found at the Hughes site.

Plate 3, Fig. 1-d. This sherd is similar to the one just described, but in some respects it resembles the Hughes site ware in that the rim is notched and the composition of the clay, which is shell tempered, resembles that of the local pottery.

Plate 3, Fig. 1-e. This sherd is shell-tempered with a flat smooth rim and bears a design formed by a series of short punches made with a pointed implement.

Plate 3, Fig. 1-f. This rim sherd is similar to Fig. 1-e in treatment, the design being applied in the same manner, but the tempering material is crushed quartz.

Drawing, Fig. 9. This sherd is light buff in color and is tempered with crushed quartz. The design consists of trailed or incised lines and the exterior cord markings have been smoothed

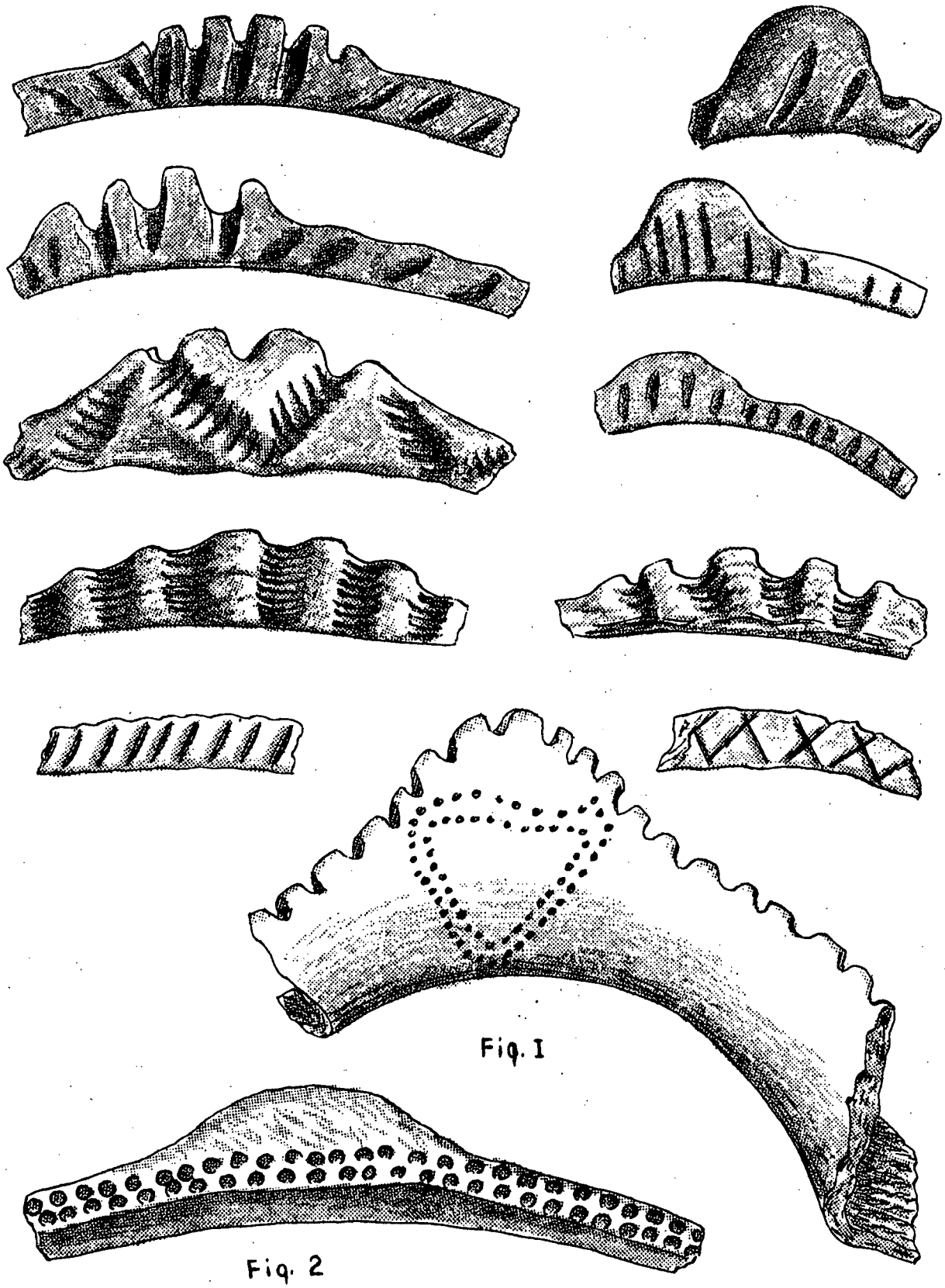
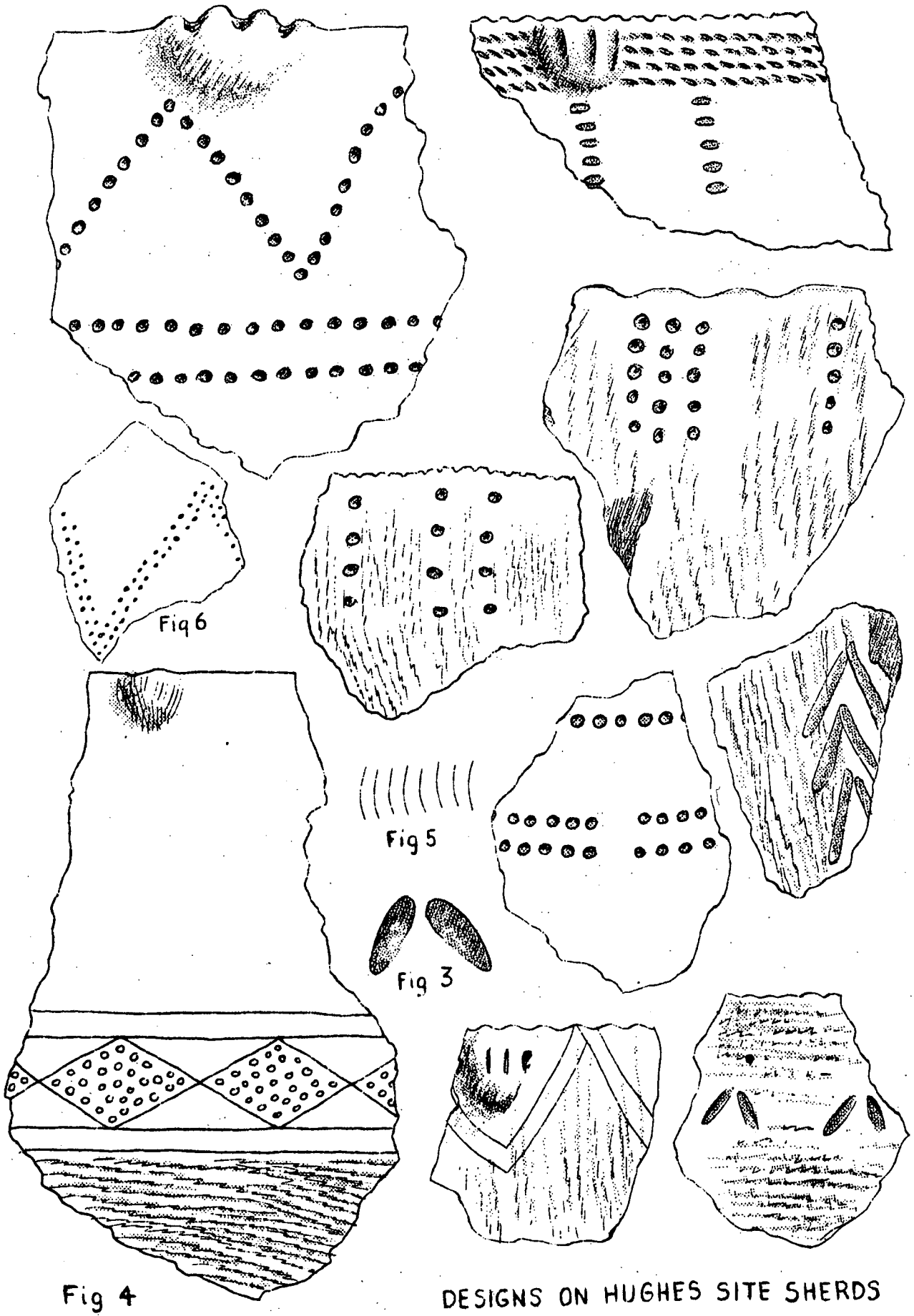


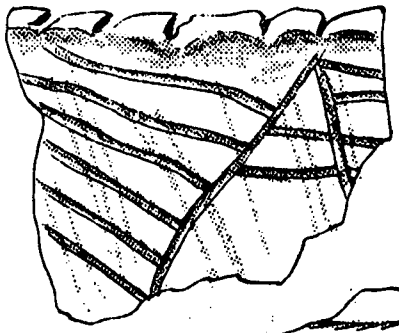
Fig. 1

Fig. 2

LUG HANDLES AND RIM DESIGNS - HUGHES SITE




DESIGNS ON HUGHES SITE SHERDS



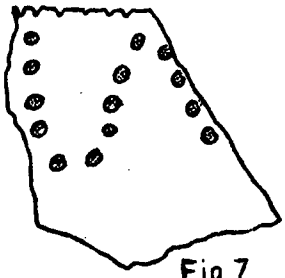
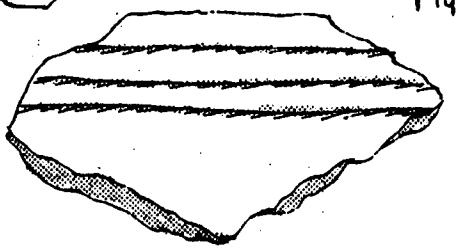


Fig 7



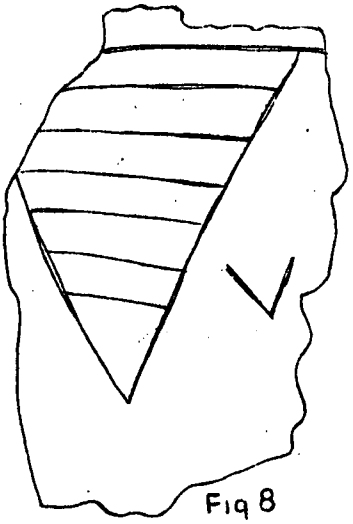


Fig 8

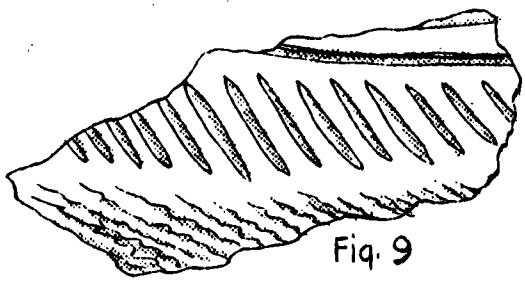


Fig. 9

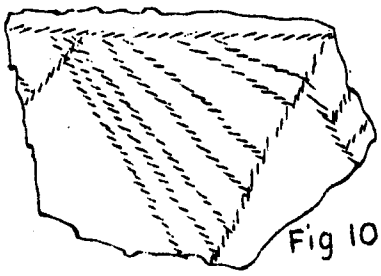
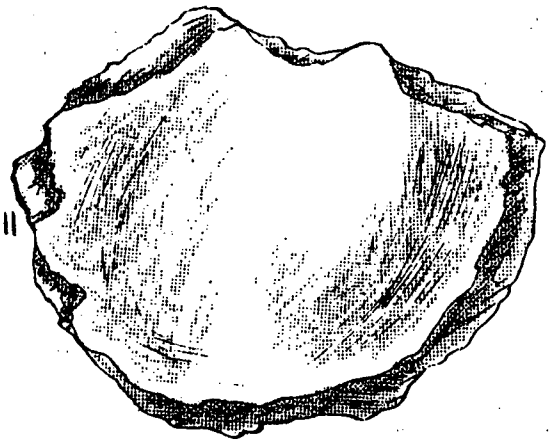


Fig 10

Fig. 11



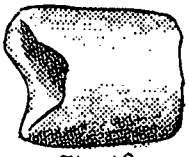


Fig 12

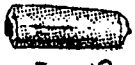


Fig. 13

Fig. 14

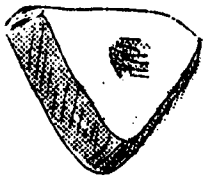


Fig. 15

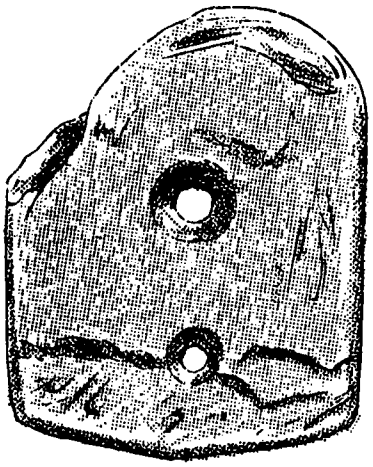


Fig. 16

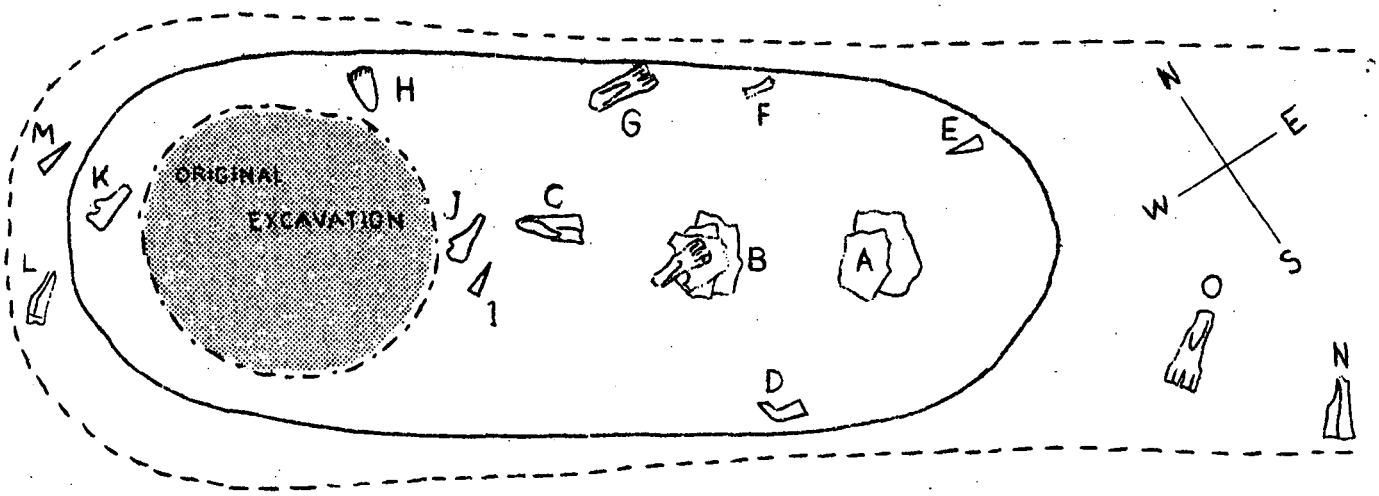



Fig. 17

------ area of excavation

———— outline of pit

-·-·-·- outline of original excavation

Contents of Pit

A - 2 large sherds
B - broken beaming tool lying on deer skull which in turn was placed upon two large sherds
C - broken beaming tool
D - clay pipe
E - splinter awl
F and G - broken beaming tools
H - stone celt
I - antler arrowpoint
J - blunt implement made from deer ulna (Plate 4, Fig. 2-k)
K - blunt implement made from deer ulna (unfinished)
L - broken beaming tool
M - broken awl made of deer scapula
N and O - broken beaming tools

Position of sherds and arrowpoints are not recorded.

away where the design was placed.

The sherd just above Fig. 9 bears a design of three thin parallel cord impressions. The clay is very gritty and grey in color.

Drawing, Fig. 10. This sherd is grey in color and very gritty in composition. The design has been applied with thin cords.

## Pipes

The general characteristics of the pipes found at the Hughes site can best be noted by examining the four broken specimens shown in Plate 3, Fig. 1-h, i,j,k. All the pipes found are made of clay and contain no tempering materials other than what seems to be natural impurities. The color is either grey or brown. One speciman now belonging to the Maryland Academy of Sciences has a diamond-shaped mouthpiece, similar to those illustrated in the 15th Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, and reported as coming from various parts of tidewater Virginia. However, the usual shape of the stem and mouthpiece of the Hughes site pipes was round. A description of the four pipes illustrated in Plate 3 - Fig. 1 is as follows:

h - A stem of grey, polished, untempered clay containing a design applied with a roulette. Found in Area A.

i - Part of a bowl of grey clay flecked with minute particles of mica. The bowl contains a pleasing design that was applied with a pointed implement.

j - A bowl and part of the stem of a pipe of grey fire-mottled, untempered clay.

k - The stem and base of the bowl of this pipe, which is made of brown untempered clay, is nearly on a straight line.

## Objects of Shell

These specimens consist entirely of beads and pendants and were found with skeletons, usually those of women and children. The form of shell bead in principal use was made from the fresh water mussel and is illustrated in Plate 3, Fig. 2, by the longest string and by several loose specimens. Some of these beads are very small and there is also considerable variation in the size of the perforation in relation to the bead as can be seen from the loose specimens in the plate. Some of the perforations are cylindrical and others are beveled on one or both sides of the bead. This string of beads was obtained through purchase, and is made up of parts of several strands found with different skeletons. They are identically the same as the beads found with the skeleton in Burial 38.

A short string of cylindrical beads made from the columella of a small univalve is shown at the bottom of Plate 3, Fig. 2. One bead in this string is made from a species of Dentalium. These we obtained through purchase and have no data concerning them, other

than the fact that they were found with a burial and that the few we have are not as many as were originally found.

We also obtained through purchase the two oyster shell pendants shown in the same plate with the beads, concerning which we have no data except that the smaller of the two was found with Burial 12 (not recorded on Plan), and that both came from the group of burials in Area A. The perforation in the larger specimen is largely the work of the marine shell borer, but has been artificially smoothed on the inner surface of the shell. The perforation in the smaller specimen is entirely artificial.

About a dozen beads, half of which were small marginella shells beveled in the usual manner for stringing were found about the right wrist of the youth in Burial 30-31. These we have been unable to identify.

## Bone and Antler Objects

The Hughes site was very prolific in bone implements, with a wide range of types, of which the most notable were fleshers or beaming tools made from the cannon bones of the deer. Seventy-nine specimens are known to have been recovered, of which nine were complete. Nearly all of the broken specimens were fractured in the center, which is the thinnest and weakest part of the implement and none of them matched.

Plate 4, Fig. 1 illustrates four complete specimens, of which two were fashioned from bones of the foreleg and two from the hindleg. Of the total number recovered, about twenty per cent were made from bones of the foreleg, eighty per cent from bones of the hindleg, and one specimen was made from a bone other than a cannon bone.

The most numerous type of implements recovered were awls made from splinters of the leg bones of deer, and from bird and other animal bones. Although we were unable to get an exact figure as to the number found, the writer believes that between one hundred and fifty and two hundred specimens would be about the correct number.

Plate 4, Fig. 2, aside from splinter awls, shows a number of other forms of bone objects, most of which were found by our party. A description of the objects illustrated in this plate, and the number recovered, is as follows:

Plate 4
Fig. 2

A - Awl made from bird bone, three specimens.
B - Deer scapula awl, pierced for suspension. Two broken specimens were also found.
C - Pointed implement made from a piece of flat bone, one specimen.
D - A small implement with a polished, beveled surface at the working end. This surface appears to have been produced by rubbing or polishing, and is slightly reddish in color. The drawing (Fig. 14) shows another view of this implement enlarged about two and one-half times.

The implement originally was longer as it shows unmistakable marks of cutting.

E - Small punch, blunt at both ends, one specimen.

F - Large splinter awl made from deer leg bone.

G - Small implement, blunt at one end, opposite end cut and snapped off.

H - Cutting implement made from a beaver's tooth. Two of these were found.

I - Splinter awl made of deer leg bone.

J - Bone fish hook. Approximately six complete specimens were recovered and two in an unfinished state.

K - This implement is made from the ulna of a deer and is blunt and polished at the working end. One other specimen has the pointed end cut off but has not been polished. No pointed implements of this bone were observed at the Hughes site. Although numbers of deer ulnas were recovered, these two were the only ones that had been fashioned into implements.

L - A pendant made from the baculum or penis bone of a raccoon. This specimen was found amongst the bones of the secondary burial shown in Plate 1, Fig. 2. The holes for suspension have been cut in from the top and side. One other specimen and several unworked bones were recovered.

Several fragments of tortoise carapace were found that had been pierced near the edges, and which bore other signs of working, - for instance scratches and rubbing marks on the back of the shell, showing that the outer plates had been removed.

These carapaces were probably used for rattles or cups and perhaps as pendant ornaments.

We obtained from Mr. Yinger two bone beads, one of which was found with a burial. This specimen is highly polished and is oval in cross section. The hole through this bead is quite large and appears to be the natural hollow in the bone, but has been polished to the same extent as the outside. This bead is illustrated by a full size drawing (Fig. 12).

The other bead is shown by a full size drawing (Fig. 13), and is made from a solid piece of bone. The hole for threading is a little less than one-sixteenth inch in diameter.

The principal use for antler at the Hughes site was in the making of projectile points, of which we obtained ten more or less complete specimens and several fragments. The total number recovered by Mr. Yinger is not known, but there were undoubtedly many more. However, stone projectile points were far more numerous.

Some of the antler projectile points, typical of those used at this site, are shown in Plate 5, Fig. 1. The specimen at

the far right is a perfect and beautifully made point that was found in Refuse Pit 135. The point on the extreme left was made from a piece of antler that seems to have been previously used as a flint working tool. It had been hollowed in the base for insertion of a shaft similar to the rest of the points, but no attempt had been made to smooth down the roughtnotches caused by flint chipping.

Bones of food animals were abundant in the pits and in the immediate vicinity and consisted principally of the remains of the Virginia deer. Also present in much smaller quantities were the remains of elk, raccoon, fox, beaver, ground hog, muskrat, squirrel, skunk, and there was one mandible of a wild cat. Birds were represented by turkey and several others which we have not yet identified. Tortoise and turtle bones were numerous.

## Stone Objects

The most numerous of the stone objects found by our party were projectile points; about three dozen in all. Altogether no less than two hundred were collected by Mr. Yinger, nearly every pit containing at least one. Most of these were small triangular points made of white quartz, several examples of which are shown in Plate 5, Fig. 1. It will be seen that there is one stemmed point shown in the illustration which is made of the same form of white quartz as the others. There were only a few of these found. On Plate 5, Fig. 2, several points are shown that are made of quartzite and rhyolite. The few specimens illustrated are the only ones that were recovered.

Plate 5, Fig. 2, also shows several celts and hammerstones. Eight celts and one small double-ended chisel were found. The material of which they are made is a hard blue-green rock. No grooved axes were unearthed at this site. The hammerstones collected are of the usual types that can be found on nearly any ancient Indian site.

Several irregular pieces of steatite were found which bore the marks of stone chisels. One of these had a very crudely chiseled, shallow cavity worked in on one surface. No objects made of steatite were found other than these.

One small fragment of hard red hematite has two rubbed surfaces and is probably a piece of paint stone.

Two gorgets made of dark purple slate were found by Mr. Yinger. One of these was secured by us and is shown by a drawing (Fig.16).

A description of the objects shown in Plate 5, Fig. 2, is as follows:

a - Spherical hammerstone of quartz.
b - Hammerstone of hard blue-green rock flaked on the ends, pecked on the sides and containing one polished surface as if it had been used as a polishing stone.
c - Drill-shaped arrowpoint of rhyolite.
d - Arrowpoint of quartzite.
e - Broken blade of quartzite found in trench.

f - Broken triangular point of rhyolite from Pit 135.
g - Hammerstone of rough grey rock.
h - Unfinished, broken butt of a celt of blue-green rock.
i and j - Two much used celts of the same type of rock as h.

## Conclusion

The excellent condition of the skeletons and implements found at the Hughes site does not seem to indicate any great age for its occupancy. Nevertheless, as there were no objects of European manufacture found, it would seem that the village was occupied before the arrival of the white man. The discovery of the three white skeletons may cast some doubt on this assumption. Unless it can be proven that these white people were settlers of a later period their presence at the site will have to be taken into consideration.

At the period of white contact the Indians living in the Chesapeake Bay area were of Algonkian stock, their territory extending to the falls of the great rivers draining into the Bay. The land lying to the west of the fall line was occupied by tribes speaking a Siouan dialect. This territory included the Shenandoah Valley and the Potomac River above tidewater.

It is true, however, if one may judge by pottery and other artifacts found, that certain village sites to the west of the fall line on the Potomac River were occupied by Algonkians before white contact. These sites of probable Algonkian origin extend as far up river as Van Deventer Island and possibly a bit farther.

There are sites occurring along this stretch of the river that produce pottery of a type that is different from the ware used by the Algonkians. This form of pottery is also found in the Shenandoah Valley. These vessels are tempered with stone and have heavy cord impressed collars at the rims. The type is shown by the single rim sherd that was found at the Hughes site (Plate 3, Fig. 1-c).

Near the headwaters of the Shenandoah and also further south on New River, occurs another form of pottery having loop handles connecting the rim and neck of the vessels. This ware somewhat resembles that from the Hughes site, but although some of the lug handles at the Hughes site are pierced for suspension, none was found that had loop handles resembling those from New River.

The traits that form the culture of the Hughes site are very well defined, since throughout the entire site, the same forms of pottery, stone and bone implements were found, and those objects that seemed to show outside influence were seldom encountered. In discussing the subject of inhumation with Mr. Yinger, we noted particularly that flexed burials, secondary burials, and cremation were all used in disposing of the dead, but cremation was seldom practiced.

It may be said definitely that the pottery and a number of the other artifacts found at the Hughes site do not resemble those of the Chesapeake Bay Algonkians. Certain features of the material culture, such as a well defined bone industry, and the preference

for celts and small triangular arrowpoints, tend to suggest Iroquoian influence. On the other hand the pottery bears little or no resemblance to that attributed to the Iroquois. Pottery distinctly Iroquoian and in no way resembling that from the Hughes site has been discovered in West Virginia on the South Fork of the Potomac River.

Although many encampments and burial grounds have been located in the regions under consideration, it is doubtful if the material culture of any of them except that of the Algonkians and possibly the Iroquois, has as yet been positively identified as belonging to historically known tribes. It will be seen from the foregoing observations that the matter of identifying the Hughes site people should not be attempted until more work has been done in this region. The writer sincerely hopes that the information presented in this proceedings will be of some value to those who are interested in the Archaeology of this area.

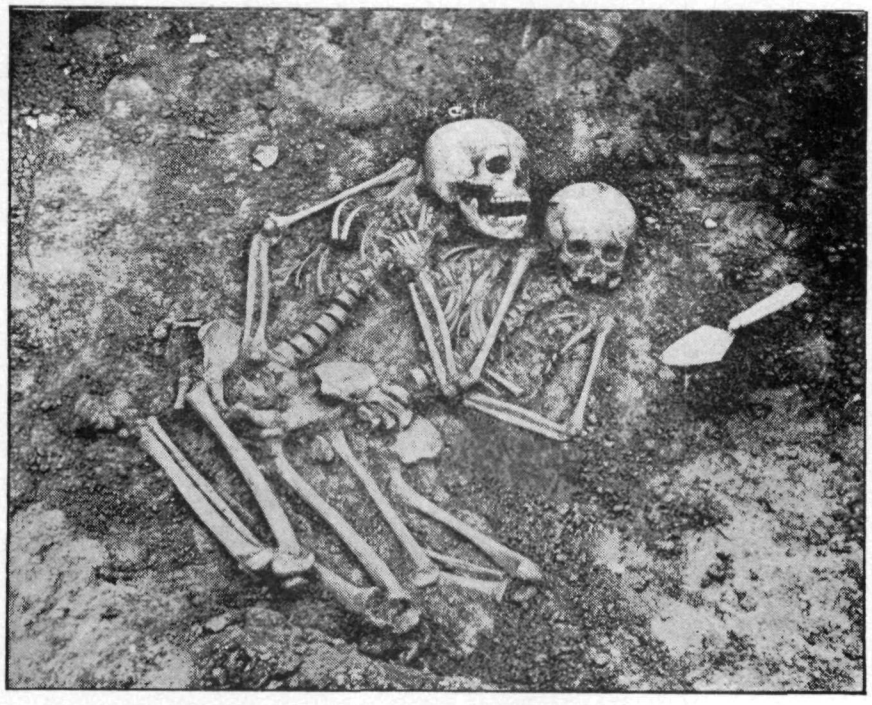


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

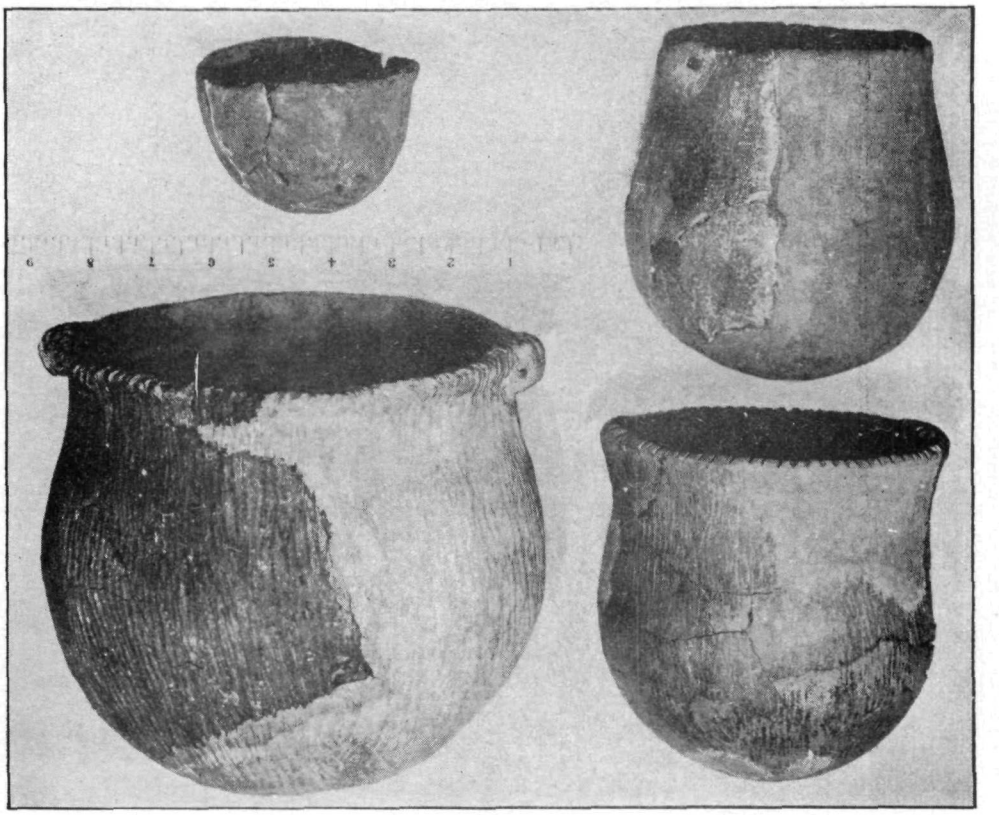


FIG. 1

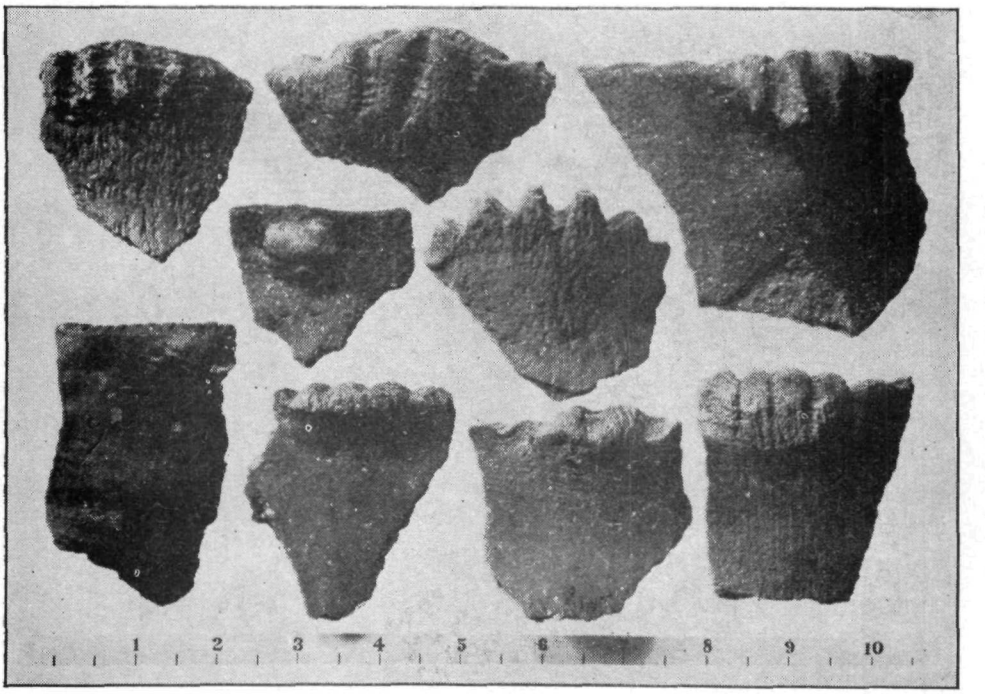



FIG. 2

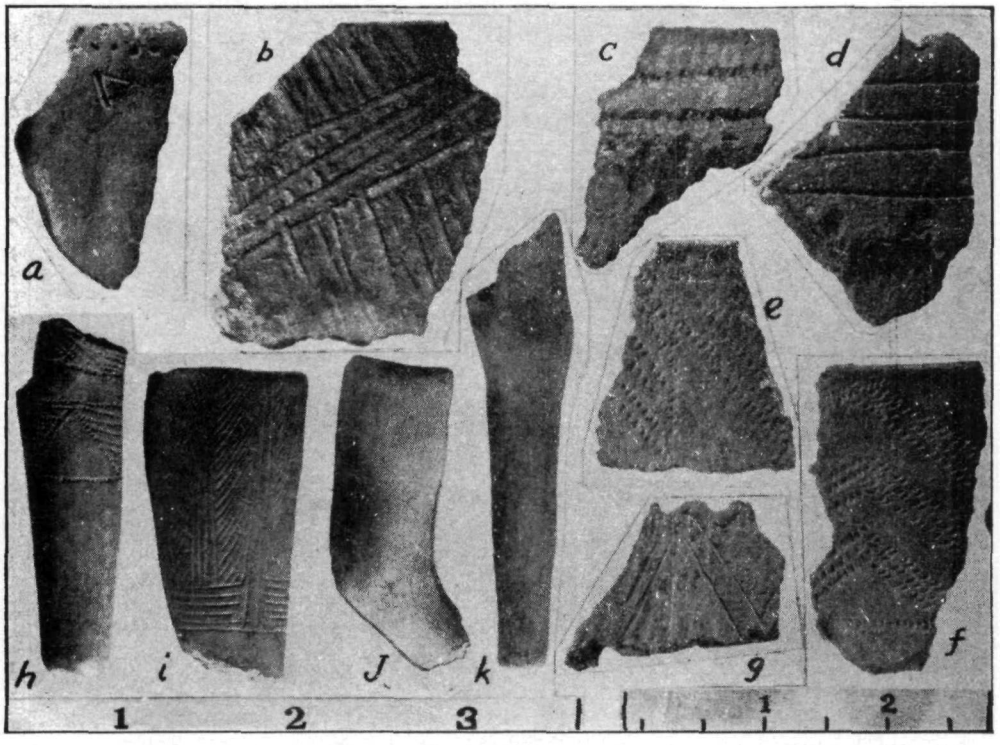



FIG. 1

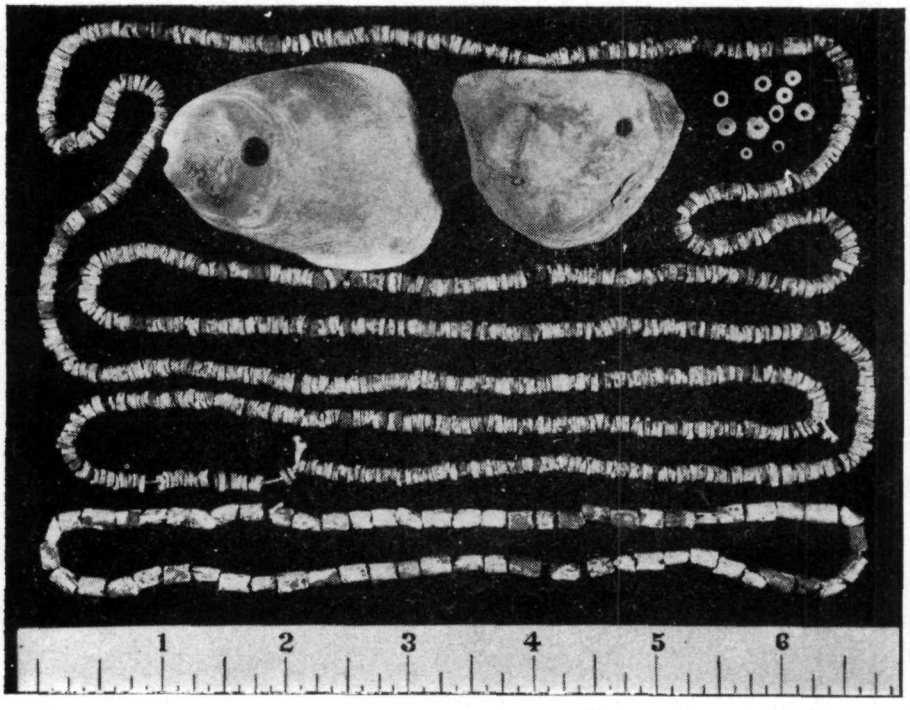



FIG. 2

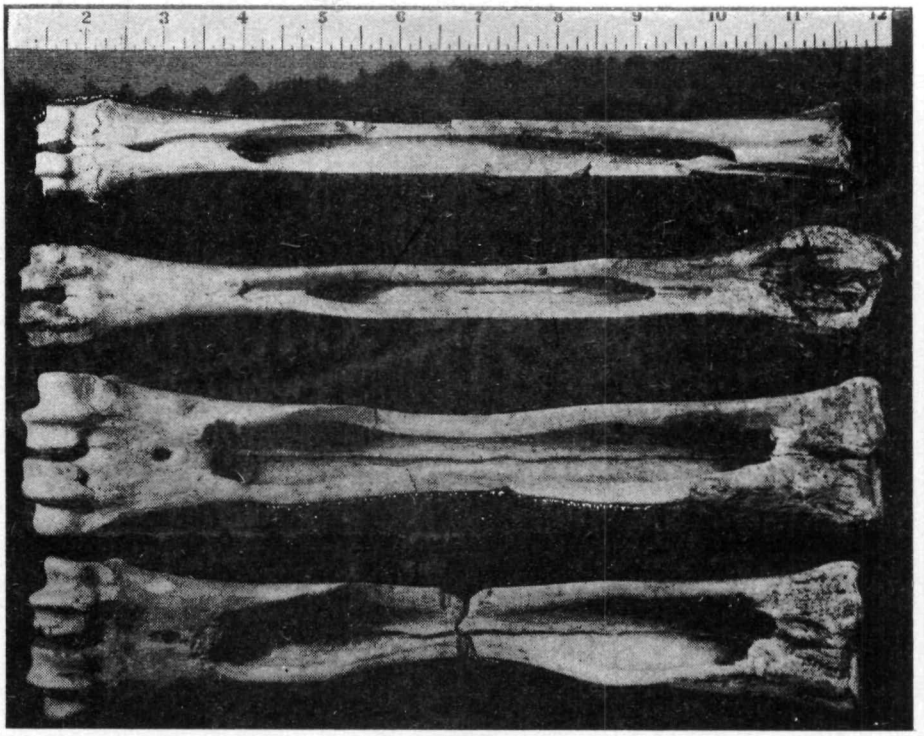


FIG. 1

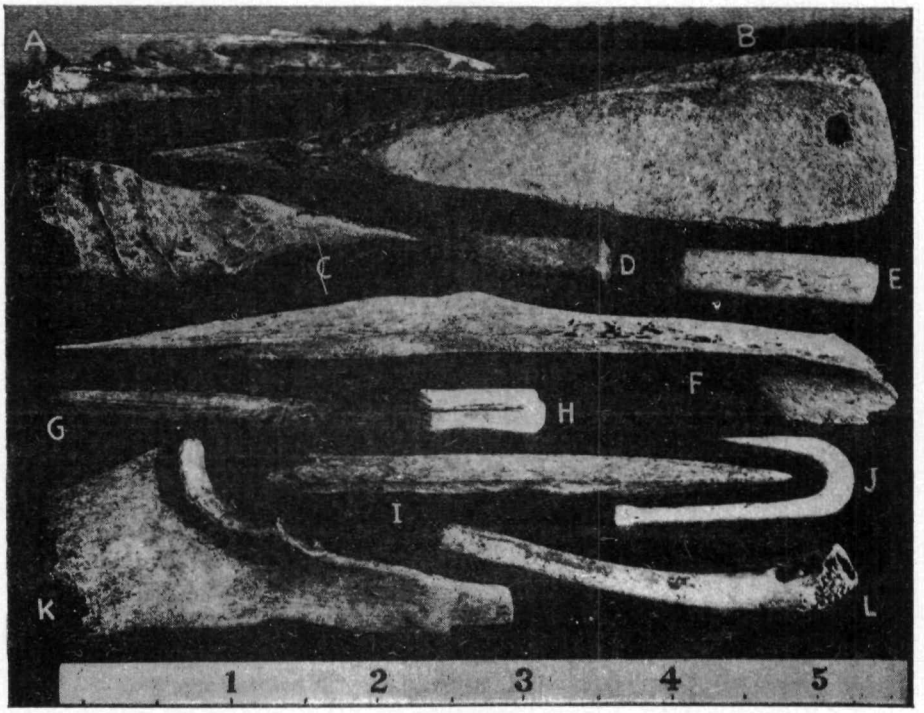



FIG. 2

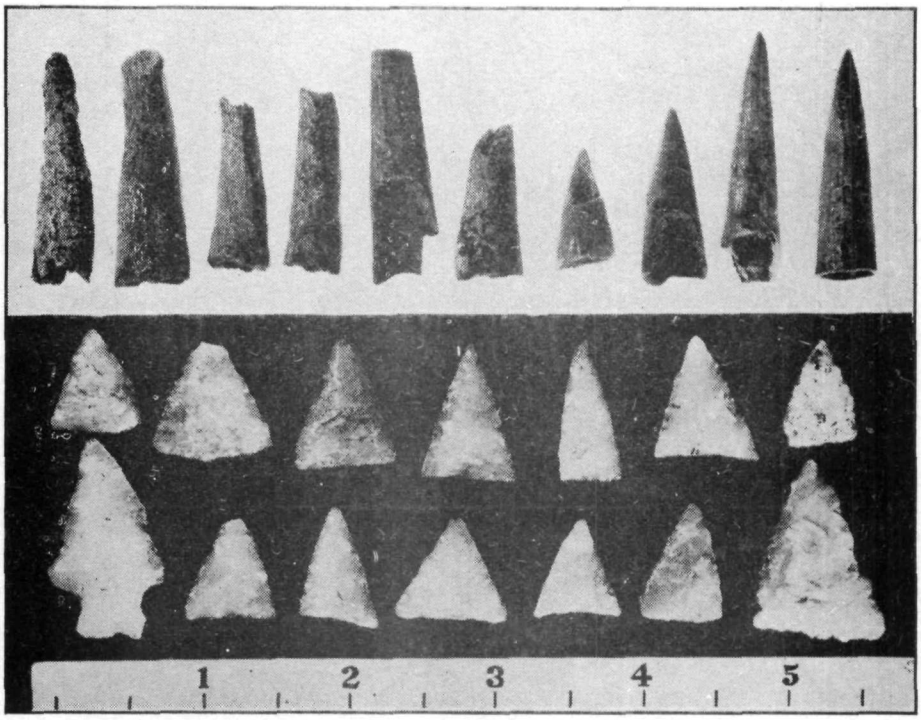



FIG. 1

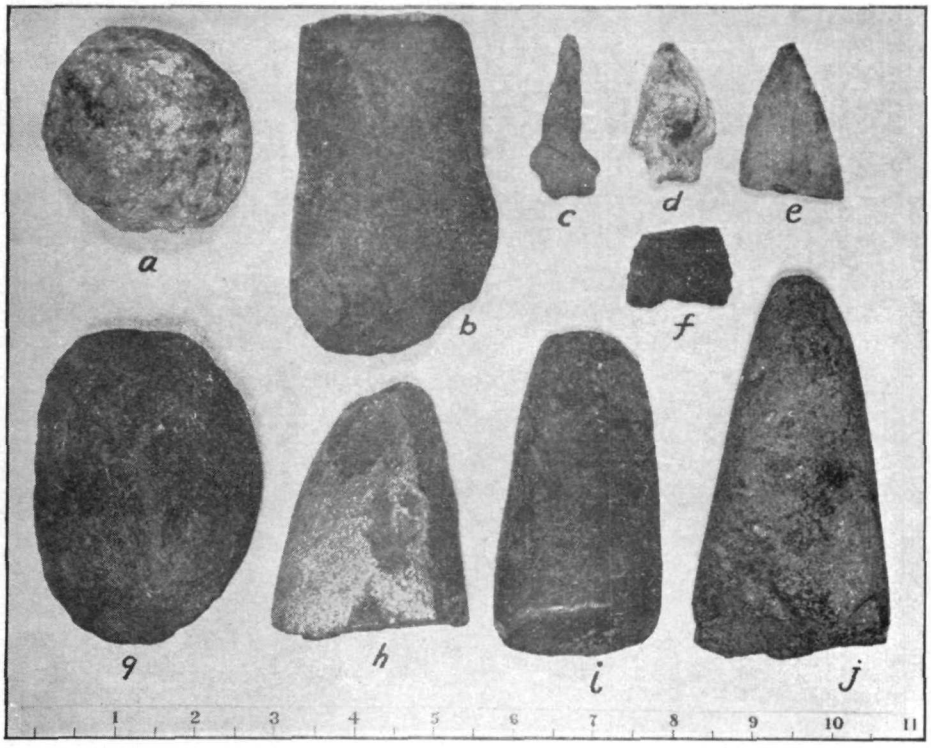



FIG. 2